



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

Promoting and fostering an interest in ornithology by observation, research and record-keeping

July 2025

Summer Walk

Fanny's Croft, Alsager Wednesday 16th July

Fanny's Croft is a cherished green space, popular among birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. We'll follow a pleasant countryside route around farmland to the south of Alsager, taking in a small wooded area known as The Sprink. Meet at 7.00 pm to enjoy this peaceful and wildlife-rich area.



Fanny's Croft - Jean Harrison

June Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Hobby, Red Kite, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler; 2nd Dipper, House Martin, Little Grebe, Mandarin Duck, Oystercatcher, Sedge Warbler, Swallow; 3rd Cuckoo, Egyptian Goose, Goosander, Redshank, Swift; 4th Yellow Wagtail; 5th Spotted Flycatcher; 11th Kingfisher; 12th Cetti's Warbler; 13th Sand Martin; 15th Common Tern; 17th Raven; 19th Little Egret, Little Ringed Plover; 22nd Yellowhammer; 23rd Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Mediterranean Gull; 27th Arctic Tern; 28th Ringed Plover

Sightings EHF/PHF - Jun

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 23
Wigeon	regular, max 3
Gadwall	regular, max 13
Teal	4, 28 th
Mallard	regular, max c190
Shoveler	4, 19 th
Tufted Duck	1, 28 th
Mandarin Duck	3, 12 th
Greylag Goose	2, 2 nd
Canada Goose	regular, max 44
G C Grebe	3, 15 th
Coot	regular, max 11
Moorhen	regular, max 6
Mute Swan	regular, max 2

Goosanders - Dennis Swaby



Common Tern - Dennis Swaby



Common Tern - Dennis Swaby

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 3
Lapwing	regular, max c110
Little Ringed Plover	3, 19 th , 23 rd
Ringed Plover	1, 28 th
Curlew	3, 28 th
Black-tailed Godwit	56, 24 th
Redshank	1, 3 rd

CF = Crabmill Flash

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FF = Fodens Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

OTF = Oak Tree Flash

PHF = Pump House Flash

RF = Railway Flash

WF = Warmingham Flash

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

Blue text indicates place first seen.

Underline indicates high flock count (see Feb 2020 Newsletter, page 8).

Sightings EHF/PHF - Jun

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c60
Mediterranean Gull	1, 23 rd
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 105
Herring Gull	12, 2 nd
Common Tern	regular, max 1

Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 7
Little Egret	1, 19 th



Mediterranean Gull - Dennis Swaby



Sparrowhawk - Dennis Swaby

Raptors & Owls	Count
Buzzard	1, 2 nd , 10 th , 28 th
Red Kite	regular, max 2
Hobby	1, 1 st



Red Kite - Dennis Swaby



Red Kite - Dennis Swaby

Redesmere - 18th Jun



Redesmere Sunset - Chrissy Higgs

8 members enjoyed a walk on a beautiful summer's evening at Redesmere.

Thank you to Anthea Gater for organising and leading the walk.

Species seen/heard were: Canada goose, greylag goose, mute swan, mallard, tufted duck, swift, woodpigeon, coot, great crested grebe, oystercatcher, grey heron, buzzard, jackdaw, blue tit, great tit, sand

martin, swallow, house martin, chiffchaff, blackcap, goldcrest, starling, blackbird, robin, chaffinch, greenfinch.

Trip Count = 26 species

2025 SECOS Field Trips Total = 161 species

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Swift, Swallow, House Martin, **Cetti's Warbler**, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Nuthatch,

FFF: **Swift**, Stock Dove, Oystercatcher, Red Kite, Buzzard, Kestrel, **Swallow**, House Martin, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Nuthatch

Alsager: Swift

Alsager - Alsager Treatment Works: Buzzard, Kestrel, Swallow, Grey Wagtail,

Alsager - Day Green: Red Kite

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Sparrowhawk

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR: Great Crested Grebe, Kestrel, Swallow, **Willow Warbler**, **Blackcap**, **Garden Warbler**

Congleton - Mossley: Stock Dove, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Blackcap

Congleton - River Dane: **Mandarin Duck**, **Goosander**, Red Kite, **Kingfisher**, Blackcap, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail

Crewe - Weston: Red Kite

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Tufted Duck, Swift, Stock Dove, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, **Oystercatcher**, Redshank, **Arctic Tern**, Sparrowhawk, Red Kite, Buzzard, Tawny Owl, Raven, **Sand Martin**, Swallow, **House Martin**, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Yellow Wagtail**

Eaton, N of Congleton: **Sedge Warbler**, **Dipper**, Reed Bunting

Haslington: Red Kite

Lawton Heath End - Chellshill Wood: Red Kite

Rode Heath: Hobby

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Tufted Duck, Swift, **Cuckoo**, Stock Dove, Crested Grebe, **Raven**, Swallow, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail

Sandbach - Elworth: Red Kite

Sandbach - Malkins Bank: Hobby

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun

Sandbach Heath: Buzzard, Skylark, Swallow, House Martin, Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, **Yellowhammer**

Scholar Green: Hobby

Shavington: Bullfinch

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Kestrel, **Reed Warbler**, **Blackcap**, **Whitethroat**

Wheelock - Forge Fields: Mandarin Duck, Cuckoo, Kingfisher, House Martin, Blackcap

This is a small selection of species
seen in the SECOS Recording Area.

A full listing is on the website:

<https://www.secos.org.uk/sightings/>

Diary Dates



14th Jul

Committee Meeting

16th Jul 7.00 pm

Wednesday Summer Walk

Fanny's Croft, Alsager

Leader: Jean Harrison



SECOS Website: <https://www.secos.org.uk>



SECOS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SECOS1964>



Sandbach Flashes: This medium does not do justice to the images that Dennis Swaby captures at Sandbach Flashes. Some of the images have been uploaded to <https://sandbachflashes.co.uk/>